

PRESS RELEASE

Governor Baker appoints new member to Early Education and Care Board

Nicki Ruiz de Luzuriaga, vice president of institutional advancement for Economic Mobility Pathways, will serve as the parent-representative on the board.

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Department of Early Education and Care

Executive Office of Education

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BOSTON — Governor Charlie Baker appointed Nicole (Nicki) Ruiz de Luzuriaga as a new board member to the Board of Early Education and Care. Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga is the vice president of institutional advancement for Economic Mobility Pathways, a Boston-based nonprofit that helps move people out of poverty. She will serve as the parent-representative on the 11-member board.

“Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga’s many years of experience in helping children and families will be an asset to the Board of Early Education and Care. “We appreciate that she has agreed to serve on this board to help create strong educational starts for the Commonwealth’s youngest learners,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.**

“Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga brings a wealth of knowledge around creating programs for low-income families that will help the Department of Early Education and Care meet the needs of all children across the Commonwealth,” **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said.**

Currently, Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga oversees the communications, marketing, and philanthropic giving at Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath). She has also managed a department within the organization that helped more than 270 families each year move out of poverty and oversaw a budget of \$1.2 million. Previously she managed a program that provided intensive home visiting services to 130 teen parents annually and developed supportive programming for families and staff at the organization's family homeless shelters.

"We are very pleased to have Nicki as part of the Early Education and Care Board, taking on the role of parent representative which Katie Joyce has filled for the past five years. I would like to thank Katie for her years of dedication to children as a member of the board and wish her well in future endeavors," **Education Secretary James Peyser said.**

"I am excited to have Nicki join the Board as the parent representative and to contribute her perspective as both a seasoned non-profit professional and mother," **said Early Education and Care Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy.** "Nicki's experience providing direct services to children, supports to families, and leading community development efforts in Massachusetts will be a strong asset to the Board as we work to enhance the agency's efforts across these areas in the years ahead."

"Nicki is a leader in improving systems of support for vulnerable parents with young children, through research-informed interventions and intergenerational approaches that foster economic mobility and lead to better outcomes for all," **said Board of Early Education and Care Chair Nonie Lesaux.** "On behalf of Board, I welcome and thank Nicki, and look forward to benefiting from her strong skill set, diverse experiences, and passion for community development and societal well-being."

"I have spent much of my career concerned with poverty's effects on children, focusing on intergenerational strategies and broad-scale change, and I welcome this new opportunity to help level the playing field for all families," **said Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga.** "As a new parent I am keenly aware that quality early education programs provide a strong foundation for children's learning and development and are key to an upward trajectory for many working parents. I look forward to working with Chair Lesaux and the rest of the Board, Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy, and Department staff in advancing Massachusetts' early

education and care system over the years ahead.”

Prior to working at EMPath, Ms. Ruiz de Luzuriaga was manager of arts and wellness programs at Sociedad Latina, a community organization that promotes leadership development for Latino children and youth. She received a bachelor’s degree from Reed College and a master’s in public administration from Harvard University.

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Department of Early Education and Care

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